GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2611
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2014
IMPORT OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED SEED
Singh Shri Sushil Kumar

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has taken any decision regarding import of genetically modified seed and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study regarding the utility of the above seeds keeping in view the interest of farmers in the country; and

(c) if so, the name of the organization conducting the said study and the main features of the recommendation contained in the report along with the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR)

(a) Research and Development of Genetically Modified (GM) crops are regulated at all stages of laboratory, greenhouse and field trials prior to environmental release under the "Rules for the Manufacture, Use/Import/Export and Storage of Hazardous Micro Organisms/ Genetically Engineered Organisms or Cells" through Notification No. 621 in Official Gazette of Govt. of India on December 5, 1989 (known as Rules 1989) under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. In accordance with the provisions of Rules 1989, import of GM seeds are permitted only for research purpose and laboratory studies through an elaborate procedure of import clearance from the Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM) under Rules 1989 and Plant Quarantine Order 2003 through National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR). Permission is granted on case to case basis following regulatory guidelines and procedures stipulated under Rules 1989. In addition, GM seeds also undergo obligatory and elaborate post-entry quarantine processing and molecular and quarantine testing for pest, pathogens & insects before initiating further research on it.

No permit is given for import of GM seeds for any commercial use.

(b) No Madam.

(c) Does not arise.